Brownfields 2011 Assessment and Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet
Rochester, NY

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Rochester was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in northwestern New York, Rochester (population 207,291) has about 6,000 commercial and industrial properties, of which 3,875 have potential environmental issues. The number of vacant properties in Rochester has risen by about 50 percent in the last five years. The city lost nearly 12 percent of its residents between 1990 and 2009, which, when combined with increases in abandoned properties and manufacturing losses, has depressed property values and the property tax base. As of August 2010, the unemployment rate in Rochester was 11.7 percent. About 50 percent of city residents are minorities, and the median household income is significantly lower than state and national medians. Brownfield assessments will help the city identify environmental contaminants and are expected to generate interest from potential redevelopers. The city has received inquiries from local developers interested in redeveloping the targeted Andrews Street site for mixed residential and commercial use. Cleanup of the site will reduce the risk of exposure to contamination and is expected to enable redevelopment to proceed.

Assessment Grants

$200,000 for hazardous substances

$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Rochester for two brownfields assessment grants. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 25 Phase I and 10 Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities and monitor the city's institutional controls. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Cleanup Grant

$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Rochester for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Andrews Street site at 300, 304-308, and 320 Andrews Street and 25 Evans Street. The site consists of four parcels used for various commercial and industrial purposes since the early 1920s, including a commercial bus depot, chemical sales and distribution, and dry cleaning equipment distribution. Soil and groundwater are impacted by volatile organic compounds, including perchloroethene. Grant funds also will be used to monitor institutional controls and support community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team
(212) 637-3260
EPA Region 2 Brownfields Web site
(https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-new-jersey-new-york-puerto-rico-and-us-virgin)

Grant Recipient: City of Rochester, NY
Cleanup Grant:
(585) 428-5978
Assessment Grant:
(585) 428-5978

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

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